

2.0 SUMMARY OF SCOPING ACTIVITIES

A critical part of any transportation study is gathering comments from key stakeholders in order to identify issues and potential alternatives early in the process. Between March and May 2010, the study team initiated a range of activities designed to proactively encourage participation and gain feedback from interested stakeholders and public agencies during this information-gathering stage. Scoping activities targeted the general public, businesses, local governments and government and non-government agencies.

The study team provided information about the study area using letters and other media outlets. Study team members presented to the Taylorsville City Council to inform council members about the project and encourage attendance at the public scoping meeting. The team gave stakeholders several options for submitting comments including a telephone comment line, mail, e-mail, a website comment page and a scoping open house held in the heart of the study area. Public participation has been quite substantial, as evidenced by the number of comments received and more than 90 people in attendance at the public scoping open house.

2.1 AGENCY SCOPING

While people who live throughout the study area understand the issues associated with day-to-day life in the area, it is important to also coordinate with local, state and federal agencies that oversee the management of natural resources, public services and city planning in the study area. UDOT sought input from several agencies within the area that could be affected by the project, in order to identify issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Study and to determine if project construction would require any permits or approvals from these agencies. UDOT will combine the input from these agencies with input from the public to develop project alternatives within the study area.

2.1.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

The study team sent letters to 13 agencies requesting their involvement in the I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study. In addition, UDOT attended a Taylorsville city council meeting, April 14, 2010, to inform council members about the study and invite them to the public scoping meeting. See the the city council meeting minutes and agency letters in **Appendix A: Agency Scoping**.

The study team held an agency scoping meeting April 20, 2010 at the Taylorsville city offices where agencies gave input. The following agencies received letters requesting input and inviting them to the agency scoping meeting:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Resource Development Coordinating Committee
- Utah State Division of History
- City of Taylorsville
- Utah Transit Authority
- Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Division of Air Quality
- Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
- Division of Water Quality
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2.1.2 AGENCY SCOPING COMMENTS

Of the 13 state and federal agencies that received letters, four attended the agency scoping meeting and two sent letters with feedback.

Verbal feedback at the meeting included the following:

- Mary DeLoretto with UTA mentioned that UTA considered extending the initial West Valley light rail to Taylorsville. She also said that the study team should not preclude any future bus rapid transit on 5400 South.
- Robin Coursen with the Environmental Protection Agency had concerns about construction. She wanted to know what the quantitative hot spots will be.
- John Taylor with Taylorsville City mentioned that the city won't have much of a voice in the study process until the study has established a need.
- Muhammad Farhan with the Wasatch Front Regional Council mentioned that they are projecting to 2040 now.
- All agencies in attendance agreed that the Purpose and Need is on target.

Written feedback is included in the comment summary. The original letters are included in **Appendix A: Agency Scoping**.

2.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

The public scoping process allows UDOT to gather concerns and determine the needs of the public that should be considered during the decision-making process. In order to maximize the results of the scoping process, UDOT sought to communicate complete, accurate, understandable and timely information to the public in a variety of ways. Interested stakeholders submitted comments through various channels including a telephone comment line, an e-mail address, a website comment page and a public scoping open house.

2.2.1 NOTIFICATIONS

In an effort to provide stakeholders with early and continuing involvement, UDOT employed a variety of methods to educate, inform and solicit feedback from the public regarding the public scoping and meeting activities. See notification examples in **Appendix B: Public Scoping Notification**. Notification methods included:

- **Direct mail postcard:** Sent to 6,282 residents and businesses covering the entire study area.
- **E-newsletter:** Sent to nearly 100 individuals who joined the project-specific e-mail contact list including interested individuals from the We Go! contact list. Sent first to public officials and later to the rest of the contact list.
- **Flyer and posters:** Distributed more than 180 flyers and 20 posters to schools, community centers and businesses throughout the study area. See a list of locations in **Appendix B: Public Scoping Notification**.
- **Legal notice:** Published twice in the Salt Lake Tribune and twice in the Deseret News.
- **Websites:** Included information about the open house on the I-215 and 5400 South study websites and links to the study website on the Taylorsville City and We Go! websites.

2.2.2 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

UDOT hosted a public scoping meeting April 20, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Vista Elementary School (4925 South 2200 West, Taylorsville). Ninety-two people, not including the study team, attended the open house to voice their concerns, comments and suggestions.

Open house attendees were encouraged to sign in at a registration desk. Each participant was given a informational handout. The handout included a comprehensive overview about the study process and what the study entails at this point. Display boards covered topics such as study area boundaries, study timeline, issues being studied, study history, examples of issues UDOT has already identified, the purpose of the study and the purpose of the scoping meeting.

In addition to the display boards, participants were encouraged to write their transportation concerns and suggestions for improvements on comment forms or were given the study contact information if they wanted to write a comment later. See the display boards, informational handout and comment form in **Appendix C: Open House Materials**. Tables in the center of the room displayed large maps of the study area. Staff members were stationed at each board and table based on their areas of expertise. They answered various questions and discussed current transportation issues with attendees.

While the We Go! projects and the Wasatch Front Regional Council's long-range plan are separate from UDOT's I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study, they are related. A representative from each were stationed at the meeting to answer questions specific to them.

The We Go! projects are under construction and are slated to be complete in Fall 2010. The We Go! projects include Continuous Flow Intersections (CFI) at 5400 South and Redwood Road, 6200 South and Redwood Road, 4700 South and Bangerter Highway and 5400 South and Bangerter Highway. We Go! also includes flex lanes on 5400 South from Redwood Road to Bangerter Highway and widening at 4700 South and Redwood Road.